



Richard O. Wightman, Jr., MG, USA

Military Executive

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Reserve Forces Policy Board

MG Richard O. Wightman, Jr., is the Military Executive/Military Advisor to the Reserve Forces Policy Board in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. (OSD) The RFPB was created by act of Congress in 1952. The Board is the principal policy advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all matters relating to the Reserve components.

MG Wightman enlisted Airborne Infantry in June 1968 and after completing Basic Training at Fort Jackson, Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Polk, and Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, was commissioned an Engineer Second Lieutenant in August 1969.

An Army "brat," General Wightman was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, on 26 March 1949. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Framingham State College and a Masters degree in Military Art and Science from the US Army Command and General Staff College. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.



MG Wightman served as a platoon leader and Asst S-3 in the 18th Engr BN at Fort Devens, Massachusetts before going to Vietnam. He served in command and staff positions in the 48th Trans GP in Binh Thuy and the 91st CSS BN in Can Tho Vietnam before leaving active duty in July 1972.

General Wightman joined the 101st Engineer BN of the 26th Yankee Division (Massachusetts Army National Guard) in September 1974. He was subsequently selected to represent the Army Guard on a 2-year Reserve Compensation Systems Study Group in OSD at the Pentagon. After completing this active duty assignment, he transferred to the USAR and became the Executive Officer, 1st BN, US Army Engineer Officer Candidate School Brigade, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

After completion of the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, MG Wightman joined the 418th CA Bn in Kansas City, Missouri. Eighteen months later, he was selected to command the unit, where he served for 3 1/2 years until he departed for the US Army War College. After graduation, he returned to the Kansas City area as the Logistics Operations Officer of the 917th CSG. On July 20, 1991, he assumed command of that unit. After three years in command, MG Wightman served as the Security, Plans and Operations Officer of the 19th TAACOM in Des Moines, Iowa. Nine months after his civilian job transferred him from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Monroe, Virginia, he transferred to the 310th TAACOM, Fort Belvoir, Virginia as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Personnel. On 1 July 1996, MG Wightman became the DCG for Mob at HQ, MTMC in Falls Church, Virginia. On 3 June 1998, he joined the Army staff serving as the ADCS for Logistics (Mob and Tng) in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, at the Pentagon. MG Wightman assumed the position of Commanding General of the 143d Transportation Command, Orlando, Florida, on 7 June 1999, where he served until his selection for his present active duty assignment on 1 Feb 2001.

In civilian life General Wightman served as the Senior Military Analyst in the Joint and Army Doctrine Directorate of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine, HQs TRADOC, Ft. Monroe, VA. Earlier assignments included: Chief, Concepts and Analysis Division, Command and General Staff College (CGSC); Chief, Studies and Analysis Division, Nuclear Chemical Directorate in the Combined Arms Combat Development Activity (CACDA) at Ft. Leavenworth, KS; and Chief, Emergency Management Programs, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Kansas City, MO.

General Wightman's awards include the Legion of Merit, with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with V Device, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal, among others.

Major General Wightman is married to Regina A. Phelan of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They have three children; Richie, Veronica, and Chelsea. General Wightman also has grown children, twin daughters, Allison and Cassandra.